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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

September 29, 2003

Applicant: Armin Diez

For : Fuel Cell Unit, Composite Block Of Fuel Cells  
And Method of Manufacturing A Composite Block  
Of Fuel Cells

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Before calculating the filing fee and prior to issuance of the first office action in the above-identified application, kindly enter the following amendment:

IN THE CLAIMS

1.(currently amended) Fuel cell unit, comprising: a cathode-anode-electrolyte unit, and a contact plate in electrically conductive contact with the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit, wherein the fuel cell unit comprises and a fluid guiding element being formed as a shaped sheet metal part and connected to the contact plate in a fluid-tight manner, forming a boundary of a fluid chamber having fluid flowing through it during operation of the fuel cell unit and being formed as a shaped sheet metal part wherein the fluid guiding element is provided with at least one fluid port in a fluid guiding area of the fluid guiding element to which the electrolyte of the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit does not extend, said fluid port forming a part of a fluid channel which extends through the fuel cell unit parallel to a stacking direction and which does not pass through the electrolyte of the cathode-anode electrolyte unit.